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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Representative Lorraine Ausley and Senator Rich Receive Legislative Leadership Award

TALLAHASSEE, FL (April 2, 2008) –State Rep. Lorraine Ausley, D, District 9, and Nan Rich, D, District 34, received the Children's Forum Legislative Leadership Award April 1 for their commitment to making a difference in early care and education for the young children in Florida.

Ausley and Rich have been advocating for early care and education ever since they were elected to the Florida House of Representatives and Senate. Ausley sits on many House Councils and Committees including the Education Council and PreK-12 Committee. In addition, Rep. Ausley is chair of Whole Child Leon and is a board member for several other nonprofit organizations including the Capital Area Red Cross and Tallahassee Urban League. Rich is the Senate Minority Policy Chair and is a member of the Children, Families & Elder Affairs committee. In addition, Sen. Rich is a member of the Children's Services Board in Broward County and is the past recipient of numerous honors and achievements including Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies' Mother of the Year in 2003 and Family Central's Child Advocate of the Year Award in 2000.

"One of Florida's most vulnerable citizens is its children," said Phyllis Kalifeh, president and CEO of The Children's Forum. "Representative Ausley and Senator Rich serve as the voice for children in the Florida legislature to make sure they are not forgotten. The Children's Forum wanted to recognize Representative Ausley and Senator Rich for their unwavering commitment to quality early education and care for Florida's children."

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Founded in 1990, The Children's Forum is a private, not-for-profit organization that provides leadership, education, services, and advocacy to achieve accessible, affordable, quality child care and early learning services for all children and their families.

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